

The Clinton Chronicle

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CLINTON, S. C., THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1943

The Society Of Encouragers

(Guest editorial by Rev. Walter L. Lingle, D.D., of Christian Observer staff).

The title of this article comes from the biography of Dr. Alexander Whyte, the great pastor of Free St. George's church, Edinburgh, Scotland, for nearly fifty years. There was a distinguished elder in this church of whom it was said that he belonged to "the great Society of Encouragers." He was always encouraging somebody, especially his pastor. There should be a society of that kind in every community and we should all be members of it. There must have been a society like that back in Isaiah's time, for we read in his forty-first chapter: "They helped everyone his neighbor; and everyone said to his brother, Be of good courage. So the carpenter encouraged the goldsmith, and he that smootheth with the hammer him that smote the anvil."

It was the elder's helpfulness to his pastor that won for him this title. Did it ever occur to you that your pastor needs encouragement? He probably needs it more than any one in your community. That statement may surprise you. Many people think of the minister as the most carefree person in the community. The Apostle Paul, after reciting all the perils and sufferings through which he had passed, adds this significant statement: "Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches." I do not suppose that any layman will ever be able to understand that statement. The care of the whole church is constantly pressing upon the heart of the good minister. He is constantly visiting the sick and sorrowing and burying their dead. He is a sharer in all the sorrows and tragedies that come upon his people.

In addition to this, he preaches his heart out but there are very few visible results. Of course, people often say nice things to him after the sermon, but even some of the things they say hurt. For example, some well meaning person will rush up and say, "Let me congratulate you on that sermon," and then he wonders whether that is the deepest impression the sermon, over which he had toiled and prayed, had made on his hearers. On the other hand, some serious-minded person says, "Your sermon today helped me," and then he knows that person is a member of the Society of Encouragers.

Some of us who are older remember when that delightful little book of Scottish stories called "The Bonnie Brier Bush," by Ian MacLaren, was published. The author's real name was Rev. John Watson, who was one of the great preachers of Scotland and England. His biographer tells a beautiful story about his early ministry. His first pastorate was a small country church with about a hundred members in the Highlands of Scotland. The young minister started out with a determination to preach without reading his sermon from a manuscript. It was hard work. Sometimes his sermons would leave him right in the midst of the service. He became terribly discouraged and felt like giving up the ministry.

One day after he had forgotten his sermon, a gaunt Highland elder came to him after the service and said: "When you are not remembering your sermon; just give out a Psalm and we will be singing that while you are taking a rest, for we all are loving you and praying for you." Dr. Watson became a great preacher without manuscript, and in after years he said: "I am in the ministry today because of the tenderness and charity of those country folk, those perfect gentlemen and Christians."

By the way, let me commend to all young ministers the example of Dr. John Watson in persevering and toiling until they learn to preach without manuscript. Within recent months, I have heard members of two churches in different states express the wish that their ministers would not read their sermons. In both cases the ministers are still young men. Perhaps if they would work as hard at it as young John Watson did, and if their people were as helpful and sympathetic, young ministers could preach with much greater power without manuscript than with it.

There are many ways in which people can encourage their ministers, and by the same tokens, there are many ways in which the minister may encourage his people. To begin with, he can do it in his preaching. Jonathan Edwards preached a great sermon entitled, "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God." We are told that he preached with such power and realism that some of his hearers actually clung to their pews to keep from slipping right down into Hell. We all need to hear sermons like

that from time to time, but the preacher should not hold his people over the pit every Sunday. They need comfort as well as warning and exhortation. Dr. Joseph Parker, the great preacher of the City Temple, London, a generation ago, used to say to theological students: "Preach often to broken hearts. You will find one in every pew. You will find them where you least expect them."

Much of our preaching is too somber. Preaching of that kind leaves people depressed and discouraged. We should study the art of putting good cheer into our sermons. You will recall that Jesus said: "Be of good cheer. I have overcome the world." In Proverbs, according to the Revised Version, we have this statement: "A cheerful heart is a good medicine."

The minister can also bring good cheer and encouragement into the lives of his people as he goes into their homes or meets them on the streets. One of the noblest ministers I ever knew was sometimes kept out of the sick room by physicians because his mournful bearing depressed the sick person. In Moffatt's translation we find this statement in the twelfth chapter of Romans: "The sick visitor must be cheerful." Every minister should keep that in mind. But whether we are sick or well, a minister with a radiant Christianity can help and encourage us by his very presence. I shall always remember with affection a Methodist minister who lived in our town ten or twelve years ago. He was not highly educated and did not preach great sermons, but he brought more good cheer and encouragement as he walked the streets or entered our homes than all the rest of us put together. He must have been a charter member of the Society of Encouragers.

But when I began this article I was not thinking only of ministers and churches but of everybody. Let us now turn to the home. That is the place above all others where we should receive the most encouragement, but sometimes it is the place where we receive the least. We drift along in a matter of fact way, week after week, just taking things for granted. Sometimes we are actually discouraged by members of our own families. Many illustrations could be given out of my own observation. Here is one:

A devout Christian woman, the mother of several small children, was ill with what she knew was a fatal disease. One day when I called she looked so bright and cheerful that I greeted her with the remark that she looked better. She replied that she felt better, in fact she felt as if she might get well. Her maiden sister chimed in: "Now don't get your hopes up—too high for you will be so disappointed if you have a setback." That sister belonged to the Society of Discouragers. There are members of that society in every community.

Parents do not always encourage their children as they should. During my college vacations years ago, I taught a country school. One day a mother came with her overgrown teen-age son to enter him in school. In the presence of her son she said: "My boy is a blockhead and I don't reckon you can learn him anything, but you can try." No wonder the boy was a blockhead, with a mother like that.

On the other hand, Benjamin West, the noted artist, used to say: "A kiss from my mother made me a painter." As he looked at his first crude effort instead of criticizing it she stooped down and kissed him. That encouraged him to press on. A frown, a criticism, or ridicule would have probably so discouraged him that he would never have tried again. I am not sure that parents and teachers are always aware of how deep fault-finding cuts into the heart of a child, or with what enthusiasm little children respond to encouragement.

It may be that husbands and wives do not always give each other the encouragement they should. The Baptist minister of the community was conducting the union Thanksgiving service in Schaeffer Hall on the campus of Union Theological seminary some twenty years ago. During the service he emphasized the fact that we should be thankful every day in the year just as a man should tell his wife every day that he loves her. Then he said that at a recent meeting of his deacons, he ventured to tell them that if some of them were to go home from the meeting and with the old enthusiasm tell their wives that they loved them their wives would think they were crazy. Some time later one of his deacons reported that he had tried it and his wife looked at him in amazement and said: "John, what is the matter with you? Are you drunk or have you lost your mind?" It would be a fine thing if all the members of all our families would resolve during the Christmas season that they are going to join the Society of Encouragers. It is a Christian society.

Sometimes even a brief note or letter will bring a world of encouragement. My graduation speech at college was a rather sorry affair. It was not a good speech to begin with. And then I was so embarrassed that my knees trembled and I kept walking back and forth like a caged hyena. On the whole, I was not very happy about the speech. A few days later I received a letter from Rev. E. P. Davis, whom I did not know and of whom I had never heard. In the letter he said a few kind words about my speech, the first kind words, so far as I can remember, that anybody ever said about a speech of mine. Then he inquired whether I had ever thought of going into the ministry. As a matter of fact, I had already decided, but his letter encouraged me immensely. After all these years I have not forgotten it. Bless his dear memory.

There are a great many people ministering to us every day. The milkman, the newsboy, delivery men and women of various kinds work for our comfort every day through rain or shine. Besides these, there are a host of public servants such as policemen, firemen, and the men at the water and electric station. All these need encouragement.

I have recently read this story of a fire. A child was seen at a high window in the burning building. A fireman started up a ladder to try to rescue the child. As he neared the top, the heat was so intense that he faltered and it looked as if he could go no further. Someone in the crowd cried: "Cheer him!" A loud cheer went up. The brave fireman pressed on and rescued the child. We meet people every day who are fighting a hard battle. A word of good cheer and encouragement may enable them to press on and win the victory. When we come to think of it, Jesus was the greatest Encourager who ever lived in this world.

NOBODY'S BUSINESS

By GEE MCGEE

The Real Facts About the Patton Affair

flat rock, december 28, 1943.

mr. gee mcgee, washington, d. c.

dear sir: somebody is trying to steal the honor due our son pvt. holsum moore, jr., cereal no. 45683250934. it was him that gen. patton struck in affrica. he has rote us exactly how it happened and we want you to go down to the war department and get our son re-instated as the soldier which gen. patton attack-ted.

pvt. moore rote to his ma right after he got struck and he was not mad about it, as he never got hurt, his ma did not report gen. patton to the 1st lt. of holsum's company, but let it go just like that. it is not right for so many people to rob him and his pa and ma of this great honner and each of us hereby demands our rights ansforth. we will depend on you helping us out in this great hour of trial for us.

our son, holsum, jr., rote his ma the follering letter enduring last august and i quote: "deer ma—you will be suprised to hear from me. a few days ago i was setting on my bunk in the army hos-spittle and wasnt feeling well, and i says 'hello old blood and guts, how's the boy today' and he hauled off and gave me a slight upper cut to the back of my nake, but i paid no attention to it and let him go his way. some of the other boys is trying to make like it was them that he hit and pushed, but it was me, and me only. regards to pop. feed my hound well, i will do some hunting when i win this war and get home. yore darling son, holsum." i unquotes.

soon as you can ples get this straight, our boy deserves credick for the said lick. of coarse, gen. patton hunted up our son and apologized, but i feel sure that holsum said "aw fergit it, gen." we will appreciate yore help with this record. he's a fine soldier.

yores trullie, holsum moore, sr.

Crop Failures Could Be Worse Than Bad Inflation

The government is so afraid of inflation it won't let over half the folks make a decent living. Unless you are one of the pets (organized labor) or belong to the group known as defense workers, you won't be the cause of the dreaded inflation. There's no danger of a farmer or a school teacher or a policeman or a common laborer or a clerk in a store and such like bidding against anybody and thereby raise prices. Millions of good men and women are making no more at present than they were paid during 1939, 1940, 1941, and 1942.

They tell me that because there's so much more money than there are things to buy, the inflation boogymen is sure to get us. By the time we buy the bonds we should buy and pay the taxes we have to pay and get half the things we need to eat and wear, there's nothing left to inflate, not even the ego of a half-drunk zoot-suit wearer. (This refers to the rank and file, and not the protected bodies). All of this "so much money" belongs to only a few.

We keep on talking about producing more food during 1944, yet—every day sees farm labor going to greener pastures. It will take more than a miracle to do what the government is asking us to do. Just off hand, I would say that 30 per cent

of the cotton farmers won't be able to farm this year, but nobody gives a heck about cotton farmers; however—this same condition might obtain in connection with all other crops except wheat.

Most of the folks who are telling us how to grow bigger and better crops think corn grows wild, peas just happen, fruit falls off the loaded trees already packed in bushel baskets, that vegetables are so plentiful they are in our way, and that we plant today and reap tomorrow, and labor, after all, is not needed on farms.

TODAY... TOMORROW

By Don Robinson

STALIN—Labor

It may be significant that, during its conference with President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill, Joseph Stalin proposed a toast to American "machines" instead of American "labor."

In stating that the war would have been lost if it wasn't for the production in our country, Mr. Stalin may have avoided giving labor the credit for two reasons:

First, he probably realized that the term "labor," which we associate so closely with the activities of unions, is a word that has lost caste in our country—a word that, whether right or not, reminds most of us of the seamy side of our war effort which we do not want advertised.

In the second place, although Mr. Stalin is a champion of the laboring classes, he undoubtedly is even less tolerant of strikes during wartime than we are. Although labor, by comparison with the rest of the population, probably gets more breaks in Russia than it does here, such a thing as a strike in a war plant is unknown in Russia and would invite the harshest form of punishment if it were ever attempted.

Mr. Stalin, on the other hand, has the greatest respect for production, which he sees as the thing by which a country's greatness and power is measured. In his toast he therefore aimed to compliment all who have contributed to production, including labor, but took no chance of his toast being interpreted as showing sympathy to a condition which has aroused the anger of every patriotic American.

LEWIS—Freedom

I have heard people compare John L. Lewis with Joseph Stalin, but actually there are probably no two men who have such diametrically opposite views. There is no doubt that Stalin would be highly insulted by any suggestion of a resemblance.

For in Russia, a man who demanded that a group of workers put their loyalty to him above their loyalty to their country wouldn't last for two minutes. The thing that probably amazes Stalin most about our attitude toward labor is the fact that we continue to let John L. Lewis remain free. With 90 per cent of the American people ready to vote for Mr. Lewis as the man who has done most to interfere with our war program, it is remarkable, even in our freedom-loving country, that we not only permit him to remain unpunished but have so far refrained from putting any curb on his activities.

Since we have gone this far without taking any adequate steps to stop strikes or to curb the activities of union leaders who encourage stoppages of war production, it hardly seems likely that anything will be done along this line for the duration. But even though strikes may quiet down at times and quick action may be taken by the government when they do develop, it would be exceedingly dangerous for us to let the labor problem become a secondary interest. For even the unions which are behaving themselves now are undoubtedly making plans for new action after the war—and the future of our country could easily depend upon the post-war plans of labor unions.

FUTURE—Danger

When we talk about postwar plans today, we think of them primarily in terms of how many people companies like General Motors will employ, how fast they will produce the goods we want and whether industry will be able to avoid a period of inaction.

In considering those complicated problems, we are apt to forget that labor could, if stirred up by ambitious leaders, completely upset any plans which industry might make.

Take the automobile industry as an example. Suppose the leaders of that industry get together and work out a plan for converting their equipment to making automobiles in a minimum of time. Suppose the plan necessitates the fast production of millions of dollars worth of new tools and machines before actual production can go forward. Suppose they even work out a plan to avoid layoffs during the conversion period, but find it necessary to reduce pay until production can be started. With plans and schedules all set, it is evident that a union leader would be apt to object to any temporary pay

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IN ENGLAND



SGT. THOMAS E. BALDWIN, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Baldwin, is now in England. He is a member of an army bomber crew, and prior to leaving for foreign service was stationed at Walla Walla, Washington.

reduction and might not only call the automobile workers out on strike but paralyze the production of new tools until the industry agreed to reinstate the old wage schedule and guarantee the men a certain amount of overtime.

That may not happen. That example is given merely to show how unions, if they wanted to, could completely disrupt any postwar planning. There is no doubt that congress should have made strikes illegal during the war. But it may be even more important for legislation to be passed now to make strikes illegal during the adjustment period following the war.

DEMOCRATIC MARGIN SLIM

Washington, Dec. 27.—Hard hit by death, resignations and by elections, the Democratic party in the house of representatives has slumped today to a bare numerical majority of one seat.

Here is the party alignment in the house as of today:

Democrats	218
Republicans	208
Progressives	2
Farmer-Labor	1
American Labor	1
Vacancies	6
Total	435

The situation is similar to that after the 1930—Hoover mid-term—general elections when the count was 219 Democrats and 214 Republicans. The Democrats organized the house then and elected a speaker for the first time since losing control in the 1918 general elections which took place mid-term in Woodrow Wilson's second administration.

There appears to be no chance whatever of the Democrats improving their position in by-elections to fill existing vacancies. Of the five vacancies, four were held by Democrats and one by a Republican.

One Democratic seat, held by the late Henry B. Steagall in Alabama, is safe for the Democrats. The other three Democratic vacancies might be won by Republicans if by-elections are held now. The vacancy in the 17th Pennsylvania district was held by the late J. William Ditter, a Republican. It is regarded as safe for the GOP.

CARD OF THANKS

We wish to thank our friends for the sympathy and kindnesses shown us at the death of our dear husband and father, James E. Reynolds.

May God's richest blessings rest upon each one of you.

MRS. J. E. REYNOLDS
AND FAMILY.

Notice to Share Holders

Your Board of Directors has declared a semi-annual Dividend payable on December 31, 1943, at the rate of 3 per cent per annum. This reduction in dividend rate is due to and made necessary by certain wartime conditions beyond our control, and we want to assure you that we, as your Board of Directors are preparing in every way possible for the day when building restrictions shall be lifted and your funds will again be in demand for the financing of new and modern homes.

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Possible To End War In 1944—Hull

Washington, Dec. 27.—Secretary of State Cordell Hull said today it is possible the European war can be won in 1944, but emphasized that achievement of this goal will require the utmost in effort and unity by all the peoples of the United Nations.

His news conference forecast was the first of its kind by such a highly-placed government official and came only a few hours after Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, Allied second front commander, said flatly that "we will win the European war in 1944."

In the past high Washington authorities have studiously avoided predictions as to the war's end. Hence, Hull's statement came as a surprise.

NANCES AT HOT SPRINGS

Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Nance of Cross Hill, are spending some time in Hot Springs, Arkansas.

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Kidneys Must Work Well

For You To Feel Well

24 hours every day, 7 days every week, never stopping, the kidneys filter waste matter from the blood. If more people were aware of how the kidneys must constantly remove surplus fluid, excess acids and other waste matter that cannot stay in the blood without injury to health, there would be better understanding of why the whole system is upset when kidneys fail to function properly. Burning, scanty or too frequent urination sometimes warns that something is wrong. You may suffer nagging backache, headaches, dizziness, rheumatic pains, getting up at night, swelling. Why not try Doan's Pills? You will be using a medicine recommended the country over. Doan's stimulate the function of the kidneys and help them to flush out poisonous waste from the blood. They contain nothing harmful. Get Doan's today. Use with confidence. At all drug stores.

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